WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Establishment of industries for agricultural labourers

2514. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sizeable population of many districts of our country are entirely dependent upon agriculture and their sufferings increase during monsoon failures;

(b) if so, whether Government will come forward to start industries to provide employment opportunities to those unemployed agriculture labourers at the time of monsoon failure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) A majority of India's population is dependent on agriculture. While Government does not directly start small industries, it does provide assistance, under its different schemes and programmes to entrepreneurs to do so, such as Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, National Programme on Rural Industrialization, etc.

Establishment of Rice Port

2515. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations for the establishment of a Rice Port to facilitate rice export;

(b) the details of the representations;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a great potential for exporting rice to other countries; and

(d) the measures Government propose to exploit this potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some of the measures taken to boost the export of rice include publicity campaign, sending delegations abroad, participating

in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible cost on account of marketing and transport.

Contract farming

2516. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco farmers are opposing the move to introduce contract farming and are in favour of retaining the present production and auction system;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) There have been suggestions in passing from certain quarters that contract farming, on a limited scale, particularly where foreign direct investment is concerned, could be allowed in the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco sector. The Tobacco Growers' Association have urged, however, that the present system be continued. At present, Government do not propose to change this system.

Revival of cement factories

†2517. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell all cement factories which are running in loss;

(b) if so, the norms prescribed for this purpose; and

(c) if not, whether Government have considered the measures to revive and provide more funds to them, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH):(a) to (c) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) is the only cement company in the Public Sector. CCI has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.